**Call for Applications to the Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowships**

**Lancaster University is inviting expressions of interest from early career researchers seeking support for their application to the Leverhulme Trust's Early Career Fellowship Scheme.**

**About The Leverhulme Trust**

The Leverhulme Trust was established in 1925 under the Will of the First Viscount Leverhulme with the instruction that its resources should be used to support “scholarships for the purposes of research and education.” Since that time, the Trust has provided funding for research projects, fellowships, studentships, bursaries and prizes.

**The Leverhulme Trust uses established criteria when assessing applications for funding so prospective applicants should familiarise themselves with this and ensure it is reflected in their applications. Details can be found** [**here**](https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/grant-schemes/early-career-fellowships)**.**

* Applicants **must not yet have held a full-time permanent academic post in a UK university** or comparable UK institution, nor may Fellows hold such a post concurrently with the Early Career Fellowship. Those in receipt of a stipendiary Fellowship may not hold this at the same time as an Early Career Fellowship. Applicants who have existing funding in place for a duration equivalent to or greater than the duration of the Early Career Fellowship should not apply.
* All candidates must hold a doctorate or have equivalent research experience by the time they take up the Fellowship. **Those who are or have been registered for a doctorate at any time may apply only if they have submitted their doctoral thesis by the closing date of 4pm on 2 March 2017**. Those who at the time of commencing the Fellowship are registered for or are intending to register for degrees, professional or vocational qualifications are not eligible.
* Applications are invited from those with a doctorate who had their doctoral thesis for viva voce examination not more than four years from the application closing date. **Hence those who formally submitted their doctoral thesis before 2 March 2013 are not eligible unless they have since had a career break.** Those wishing to make a case for a career break should present the case for interruption by a period of maternity leave, family commitments, illness, or other exceptional circumstances.
* Applicants must **either hold a degree from a UK higher education institution** at the time of taking up the Fellowship **or at the time of application must hold an academic position in the UK (e.g. fixed-term** lectureship, fellowship). The Trust’s Research Awards Advisory Committee believes that the development of an academic career is best served by gaining experience at different institutions. Applicants who have not already moved institutions in the course of their academic career should normally nominate a new host institution, or otherwise demonstrate clear evidence of the academic reasons for remaining at the same institution, such as access to highly specialist equipment or a highly specialised research team. The intention is to support the career development of those building an academic career within the UK.
* A candidate may submit only **one application per year**. Previously unsuccessful applicants may reapply. Candidates may not apply for both an Early Career Fellowship and a Study Abroad Studentship in the same year.

**Value**

The Trust will contribute 50% of each Fellow's total salary costs up to a maximum of £24,000 per annum and the balance is to be paid by the host institution. This must be agreed with the host institution before the closing date.

Given the prestige of the awards each Fellow may request annual research expenses of up to £6,000 to further his or her research activities. Please ensure that applications do not include any of the ineligible costs listed [**here**](http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/funding/ineligible_costs.cfm).

**Applying for this scheme**

Application forms can be accessed through The Leverhulme Trust [**online application system**](https://grants.leverhulme.ac.uk/Login.aspx).

Each application submitted to the host department should include a ***complete Leverhulme application form available from the online application system***. *Applications not on the Leverhulme application form will be deemed ineligible and will not be considered.*

Applicants should contact staff members in the relevant department to act as their mentor and assist them with the preparation of their application.

The application process steps are:

* Applicant identifies a mentor and makes contact to discuss their potential application through the mentor’s department
* Applicant submits a draft Leverhulme application and CV to the Department via their mentor
* The University will use expert review of draft applications and departmental support statements to assess intellectual and strategic fit with the University’s expectations and the Leverhulme Trust’s assessment criteria
* An Internal Panel will make the final selection of candidates that the University will support for submission to Leverhulme
* The University’s Research Services Office (RSO) advises applicants and departments of decision
* Successful applicants finalise their applications with their mentor and supported by the RSO.
* Applications must be submitted in Leverhulme Trust’s online application system by 26 February in order to finalise before the Leverhulme deadline.

**Deadlines**

Applicants should contact their proposed host department regarding potential applications as soon as possible.

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| **Date** | **Details** |
| **13 January 2017** | Expression of interest call closes. |
| **20 January 2017** | Heads of Departments make their selection and put forward ONE candidate |
| **1 February 2017** | Faculty makes their selection and put forward up to 3 candidates |
| **10 February 2017** | Candidates are notified and finalise their application with their mentor ready to be submitted by the deadline (initial submission through the Leverhulme Trust portal for final University approval by 26 February) |
| **2 March 2017** | Leverhulme Trust deadline at 4pm |

**Point of Contact**

Departments should send applications tothe RSO rso-submissions@lancaster.ac.uk